WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Scrapping of Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987

*522. SHRI AMAR SINGH :

SHRIMATI JAYA PRADA NAHATA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the sugar and Cement Units for the scrapping of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Demands from the sugar and cement sector for the dilution of mandatory packaging order issued under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 were received by the Government. The reasons cited by these industries, *inter-alia*, were, shortage of supply of gunnies during peak season, seepage of Cements during handling, health hazards to Workers etc.

(b) and (c) : The Standing Advisory Committee has been constituted under the provision of the Act to recommend the commodity or class of commodities or percentage thereof to be packed in jute material after considering the existing level of use of jute material, quantity of raw jute and jute material available, and protection of the interest of the persons engaged in the jute industry as well as in the production of raw jute.

The Government, after considering the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee exempted 'Cement' from mandatory packaging in jute packaging material w.e.f. 30-6-1997. The Standing Advisory Committe while reviewing the situation and the order dated 15-12-1998 heard representatives of different sectors affected by the implementation of the JPM Act and submitted its recommendations to the Government. On the basis of these recommendations

the Govt. Notified new jute packaging order vide S. O. No. 526 dated 01-07-1999 which provided for 100% of sugar to be packed in jute. The order also provided that Govt. In the Ministry of Textiles may allow sugar industry to use non-jute packaging material to the extent of 20% in the event of temporary shortage of jute bags.

Due to disruption in the production and supply of jute packaging material on account of strike in jute industry, the order dated 01-7-1999 has recently been revised by the Government on the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee and 10% relaxation to Sugar and Foodgrains each and 5% relaxation to Fertilizer has further been notfied on 31-3-2000. The order dated 31-3-2000 is valid upto June 30, 2000. A meeting of SAC is proposed to be held before June 30, 2000 to recommend the reservation to be provided for various commodities to be packed in jute after 30-6-2000.

IAY in Orissa

*523. SHRI GANDHI AZAD : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed any relaxation to decide the criterion for selecting the beneficiaries under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in Orisa for the allotment of five lakh houses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) no such relaxation has been allowed by the Government of India. It has recently been intimated by the Government of Orissa that, in view of the large scale damage caused to dwelling units, the State Government had, after careful consideration, reached the conscious conclusion to select beneficiaries by a process of lottery in the cyclone-affected districts, by taking into account only those families, below the poverty line, whose houses were fully washed away or had fully collapsed, as per the detailed Field Survey conducted by the State revenue authorities.